Committee, there was no apparent lapse on the part of any hospital functionaries. However, to improve the clinical services of the Emergency Services (Casualty), consultants have been posted in the Casualty round the clock so that more objective assessment of the patients are done who come to the AIIMS Casualty.

Cases of Child Mortality

51. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of child mortality in the country during the year 2001-2002, and upto August, 2002;

(b) the prime causes of child mortality stating the number against each of these causes; and

(c) whether such death-cases are increasing or decreasing in comparison to the cases of last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the latest available data from Sample Registration Survey of Registrar General of India, the estimated numbers of Child Mortality for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as follows:—

1997	2682464
1998	2549767
1999	2268969

(b) The major causes of Child mortality and the number of deaths against each of them, as per latest available data from Sample Registration Survey of Registrar General of India, for 1998, are as under:—

Pneumonia	484456
Anaemia	229479
Diarrhoea	160635
Typhoid	130035
Influenza	96891
Dysentry	79042

(c) The death-cases as per latest available data, decreased in 1998 as compared to the previous years.

Shortage of doctors and staff in hospitals

†52. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in almost all the hospitals including AIIMS, patients have to suffer as a result of shortage of doctors and other staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to fill up the said vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The filling up of the vacant posts of doctors and staff in Central Government Hospitals is a continuous process. In AIIMS consequent upon the judgement of the court, the vacant posts of Assistant Professors have been advertised for making regular appointments.

Inadequate medical facilities in rural and hilly areas

53. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequate medical facilities available in rural areas especially in forest and hilly areas where most of the people are below the poverty line;

(b) if so, whehter there is any proposal to financially assist the State Governments for setting up of dispensaries in these areas in order to provide proper medical facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial allocation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in several States there is a shortage of health facilities against the laid down norms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.